

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 191827Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6389

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: WIENAND ADMITS TALKING WITH STEINER

REF: BONN 9986

1. ON JULY 18, IN HIS FIRST APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG'S COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION, SPD BUNDESTAG WHIP KARL WIENAND ADMITTED HE HAD TALKED TO STEINER IN BAEUCHLE'S HOUSE, AS BOTH HAVE ALREADY TESTIFIED, BUT SAID, "AT NO TIME DID I OFFER STEINER MONEY". WIENAND ADMITTED HE HAD "IN THE ABSTRACT" MENTIONED THAT A DEPUTY "IN SOME CASES" COULD BE PAID 280,000 TO 300,000 DM BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED IT ONLY AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT A COALITION DEPUTY WHO DEFECTED TO THE CDU COULD EXPECT.

2. WIENAND DENIED HAVING ANY CONTACT WITH STEINER AT THE TIME OF THE NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE LAST APRIL. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH FDP DEPUTY MOERSCH AND STEINER TOWARD THE END OF LAST JUNE BUT NOT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE AND NEVER IN HIS OFFICE, AS STEINER HAS ALLEGED, AND THAT HE NEVER GAVE STEINER MONEY.

3. ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS ALREADY OF THE STEINER AFFAIR HAS BEEN THE SUSPENSION OF THE HEAD OF BADEN-
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WUERTTEMBERG'S OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTI-

TUTION AND HIS DEPUTY IN CHARGE OF COUNTER-ESPIONAGE
FOR THREE MONTHS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT INFORMED THE
BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF STEINER'S
EAST GERMAN CONTACTS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOW WIENAND'S WORD AGAINST STEINER'S,
WITH THE ADDED FACT THAT SOMEONE GAVE STEINER 50,000 DM
FOR SOMETHING, AS HIS BANK ACCOUNT PROVES. IMMEDIATE
PRESS REACTION TO WIENAND'S TESTIMONY IS EXTREME
SKEPTICISM.
HILLENBRAND

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